

REMARKS

In the Official Action dated June 6, 2005, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over GLASER et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0117890). Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over GLASER in view of SOLOMOND et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,079,700). Applicant respectfully traverses each of the outstanding rejections.

Although the outstanding Official Action does not specify how GLASER is being interpreted in the rejection of claim 1, the rejection of claims 2 and 3 indicate that the "transverse support 4" of GLASER is being interpreted as the claimed "torsion beam", and the "longitudinal control arms 2, 3" of GLASER are being interpreted as the claimed "left and right trailing arms". Applicant submits that, based upon this interpretation, GLASER does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in claim 1. In particular, GLASER appears to disclose nothing more than the admitted prior art.

In this regard, the shock absorber 6 shown in Figure 1 of GLASER is not shown to be mounted directly to the longitudinal control arms 2, 3. Rather, it appears that the shock absorber 6 is mounted via a bracket which is not detailed. In this regard, GLASER discloses "between the longitudinal control arms 2, 3 and the vehicle chassis shock absorbers 6 and springs 7 are arranged" (paragraph [0037]). In other words, it appears that both shock absorbers 6 shown in Figure 1 of GLASER are not mounted to any mount formed in or on either longitudinal control arm 2, 3. Accordingly, Applicant submits that GLASER does not disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in claim 1, as would be required for the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 to be proper.

Applicant notes the present application specifically addresses at least one problem which occurs using an apparatus such as is disclosed in GLASER. In particular, the present application discloses, at page 2, lines 13-17, that a problem occurs when “the shock absorber is fastened using the mounting bracket for the shock absorber via the bushing on the lower end thereof” because “a frictional resistance caused by a transverse force is increased to deteriorate the riding comfort”. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that GLASER discloses no more than the conventional art described in Applicant’s specification.

Upon entry of the present Response, Applicant will have added a dependent claim 4 to specify that the left and right trailing arms each have (or “include”) a portion configured as a mount that receives the shock absorber. It is believed that this feature is already apparent in claim 1, particularly in view of the clear contrast between the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 2 of the present application and the prior art admitted in Figure 1 (which shows a separate “mounting bracket 16” which is welded to the left and right trailing arms 4, 6).

Therefore, Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 1, and respectfully submits that GLASER shows nothing more than what is detailed in the admitted prior art shown in Figure 1 of the present application.

Applicant has also added a new set of claims 5-7, wherein independent claim 5 recites a feature of “wherein a mount that receives a shock absorber is provided in the left and right trailing arms”. Applicant has also added a new set of claims 8-10, wherein independent claim 8 recites a feature of “wherein a mount that receives a shock absorber

is formed in the left and right trailing arms”. Applicant submits that the above-noted features of at least claims 5 and 8, in the claimed combination, are not disclosed or suggested by GLASER.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that neither GLASER nor the admitted prior art discloses or suggests, in the claimed combination, that longitudinal arms are “each provided with a mount for mounting a shock absorber” as recited in claim 1. Applicant further submits that neither GLASER nor the admitted prior art discloses or suggests, in the claimed combination, that each of a left and right trailing arm “includes a portion configured as a mount that receives the shock absorber” as recited in claim 4. Applicant further submits that neither GLASER nor the admitted prior art discloses or suggests, in the claimed combination, that “a mount that receives a shock absorber is provided in the left and right trailing arms” as recited in claim 5. Applicant further submits that neither GLASER nor the admitted prior art discloses or suggests, in the claimed combination, that “a mount that receives a shock absorber is formed in the left and right trailing arms” as recited in claim 8. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that GLASER et al. shows nothing more than the admitted prior art.

Applicant further submits that each of claims 2-3, 6-7 and 9-10 is allowable at least for depending, directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional reasons related to their own recitations.

Applicant additionally submits that the above-noted features of claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 are not disclosed or suggested, in the claimed combination, by any other reference applied in the outstanding Official Action (including SOLOMOND); nor has the outstanding Official

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Action rejected claim 1 over any other reference (including SOLOMOND).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the claims now pending.

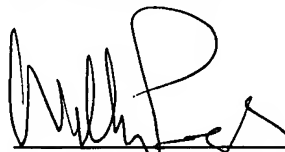
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has added new claims to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. Applicant has also discussed the features recited in Applicant's claims and has pointed out how these features are not disclosed, suggested or rendered obvious by the references applied in the Official Action.

Any new claims which have been added in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been added for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this matter, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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